



ESTADO DO ACRE
INSTITUTO DE MUDANÇAS CLIMÁTICAS E REGULAÇÃO DE SERVIÇOS AMBIENTAIS - IMC

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

As a member of the GCF Task Force and director president of the Institute for Climate Change and Regulation of Environmental Services (IMC) and representing the Acre State Government of Brazil, I am honored to congratulate the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the publication of the California Tropical Forest Standard document.

Acre's territory of 164.123 km² in the southwestern Brazilian Amazon maintains until present about 87% of the primary tropical forest cover, principally due to the implementation of long term public policies, aiming an inclusive, sustainable, and low carbon development, as well as the monitoring of deforestation based on the national PRODES satellite borne surveillance data.

In 2010 the System of Incentives for Environmental Services (SISA) was created by the State Law 2308, based on participatory consultations and a solid institutional and legal framework. The consultations of SISA took 9 months and were focused on the monitoring of forest carbon stocks, the prioritized areas, the definitions of base lines and targets, the financial and economical mechanisms for benefit sharing, the governance and institutional and legal framework, and the needs for funding and fund raising. More than 150 representatives from technical and scientific groups, beneficiaries, market related, politicians, and from international organizations contributed in presence and additional 120 through written comments. In total, 357 recommendations were collected and incorporated into the documents related to the SISA Law.

The rights of the indigenous peoples has been recognized at international level through the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP, 2010), the International Labor Convention 169 (ILO Convention 169, 2011), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992). The last two were ratified in Brazil, through Legislative Decree No. 143 of June 20, 2002 and Provisional Measure No. 2186-16 of August 23, 2001.

All activities, projects, programs, and policies that may have implications for territories, cultural heritage, identity, survival, and collective well-being must have the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples and local communities, including the right to determine what kind of process of participation, consultation and decision-making is appropriate for them.

Acre's SISA includes a REDD+ program that has been implemented during 2012-2017 with support of the REDD Early Movers initiative (REM) of the German Development Bank (KfW), benefiting indigenous peoples, local communities and small farmers by more than 70% of the funds. A second phase of REM started in partnership of KfW and the BEIS department of the United Kingdom, rewarding results of REDD+ of the Brazilian states Acre and Mato Grosso during 2018-2021.

The jurisdictional REDD+ Program applies FPIC in all phases of the process as an important safeguard, especially regarding the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. The development of a social and environmental safeguards, including indicators for monitoring was based upon the Declaration of Principles, published by Acre's Indigenous Peoples in 2013.



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The participation of indigenous peoples and local communities under compliance with the social and environmental safeguards, based on the guidance of the UNFCCC decisions in Cancun 2010, is guaranteed by SISA's governance system, which includes the representative validation commission (CEVA) and thematic chambers for indigenous peoples and gender. In 2013 Acre's indigenous peoples published a Declaration of Principles, endorsing the protection of their rights and cultural traditions also within REDD+ activities.

The benefit sharing from rewards of REDD+ result is defined in a participatory consensus between the 8 representatives of CEVA, under advisory of the thematic chambers, as a permanent governance procedure of SISA and the REDD+ Program. The dissemination of information is available in local language and accessible to the community. Agreements are recorded and distributed to all participants (<http://imc.ac.gov.br/governanca/>).

Recently Acre's indigenous representatives were integrated into the Global Committee for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of the GCF Task Force (<https://gcftf.org/news/2018/9/5/updates-on-gcf-task-force-processes-in-mexico?rq=indigenous%20committee>).

Representing the experience of Acre's SISA, I strongly recommend that the principles of the Global Committee may be incorporated into the California Tropical Forest Standard published by CARB. The compensations for REDD+ should require the compliance with the legitimate rights of the forest dependent indigenous peoples and local communities, recognized in the global climate negotiations as effective guardians.

We look forward to collaborate with you in future and show the world that **subnational governments lead in curbing greenhouse gas emissions**, promoting sustainable livelihoods and bringing social, environmental and economic benefits to states and provinces on the frontline of strategies addressing climate change.

With best regards,

Magaly Medeiros

Director President Institute for Climate Change and
Regulation of Environmental Services



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